

FLEET FOCUS

Midshipmen taste Navy life aboard Frederick

By Ens. Sharon Boyd

USS FREDERICK

USS Frederick (LST 1184) hosted several midshipmen for summer cruises during their six month western pacific deployment. These summer cruises allow the midshipmen to further their professional development and introduce them to the daily operations of the Navy, while showing them the unique social requirements placed upon officers.

Three groups of midshipmen visited the Frederick for three weeks at a time. The first group met Frederick in Hawaii for the beginning of deployment and departed in Brunei, the second group arrived in Malaysia and departed in Singapore, while the last group arrived in Thailand and departed from Indonesia.

Military Academy and NROTC college students were separated into four different classes of midshipmen according to their seniority at school (first class are seniors, and fourth class are freshmen). Only first and second class midshipmen are offered the opportunity to go on summer cruises. First class midshipmen are paired with an officer for the entire three-week period. Second class midshipmen are rotated through each department on board and receive a new sponsor each week of the visit. This distinction allows the midshipmen to learn about life at sea from both the junior enlisted and officer perspectives.

The cruise reinforces their academic year programs, instills a sense of pride in their identification with the Navy and attracts their interest in the operations of the fleet.

Midshipman 2nd Class Mylene Arvizo from the University of Southern California stated, "I was able to realize the big difference between the surface and aviation communities."

There was continuous training conducted throughout the transits from country to country allowing the Midshipmen to gain experience in flag hoist drills, formation maneuvering and various shipboard drills. Frederick's crew provided many opportunities for the Midshipmen to learn as. They were even provided the opportunity to steer the ship alongside an oiler while engaged in fueling at sea.

Standing watch with their sponsor allows them to experience a standard Navy day. This includes watchstanding on the bridge, in the Combat Information Center, and below decks in the engineering spaces.



file photo

Frederick's deployment provided the Midshipmen an opportunity to experience several different aspects of Navy life. They communicated with other ships in the formation while on the bridge watch. In combat they tracked surface contacts and plotted the ships position on charts while acting as a back up to the bridge for safe navigation and operation of the ship.

"They [the midshipmen] were a good contribution to the division in a time of need. All the midshipmen I sponsored were good watchstanders and eager to expand their knowledge of Command Information Center," said Operations Specialist 3rd Class Charolette Stephens while working with midshipmen preparing navigational charts.

In engineering, they assisted with maintenance and received fire fighting training. To make the training more interesting Damage Control Olympics were conducted. Events consisted of correct donning of fire fighting suits and live fire hose training.

Damage Controlman 2nd Class Dewayne Schull stated "having them on board before they become officers is great, they can experience life as a blue jacket." "Aside from gaining an understanding of just how tough a job Sailors must perform, the midship-

men experienced the living conditions and gained an understanding of how important crew morale becomes when so many people live in such a confined space."

To develop a better understanding of the type of day a junior officer goes through, the first class midshipmen were required to attend all of the wardroom meetings. The midshipmen were able to witness navigation briefs, planning for the weeks events, discussions about needed drills and educational topics presented by junior officers.

Tracy Meyer of the University of Washington in Seattle said, "Everyone was very welcoming and tried to teach us lots of information while offering help when needed."

In addition to an improvement in their Naval skills, an opportunity to expand on their cultural experiences was provided.

The midshipmen were given plenty of liberty time allowing them the opportunity to visit several fascinating countries and experience cultures different from their own. In Malaysia a day was spent at the capital city of Kuala Lumpur. The trip to the city, with its skyscrapers and westernization, provided a different view of the country from that of the more rural town of Lumut where the ship conducted its exercises. Singapore of-

fered a more diverse culture with an Asian flair as they were able to spend time on the resort island of Sentosa at the water park, enjoy the great shopping opportunities and take tours of the country. Thailand provided views of a more simple life and a chance to see a little history with tours to Bangkok and the bridge over the river Kwai.

All of the midshipmen participated in community relations and project handclasp events, volunteering their time to help others throughout the countries visited.

"I had a wonderful combination of at-sea time and liberty time while sharing it with some great people from the ship" said Midshipman 2nd Class Susannah Shiffman of George Washington University.

The shipboard experience is more beneficial than the classroom, according to Midshipman 1st Class Jeff Kirkpatrick of San Diego State University. "I learned more about the navy in the month I was here than I had learned during the last three years of naval science classes."

Frederick was happy to contribute to the surface warfare theme of "no better classroom" and help prepare these young men and women for future jobs out in the fleet.

Reservists complete training aboard Frederick

By Ens. Sharon Boyd

USS FREDERICK

The Naval Reserve Force ship USS Frederick (LST 1184) was joined by selected reservists from across the nation during a recent five-month deployment to participate in exercise Cooperation Afloat and Readiness Training (CARAT) 1999. By coming aboard during the western Pacific deployment, the selected reservists provided invaluable contributions to the overall success of the exercise while receiving meaningful underway training and the opportunity to travel overseas.

With fewer active duty Sailors on board, Frederick relies heavily on the specialized skills and training selected reservists bring to the ship.

The amount of time they actually spend on board Frederick varies according to each person's individual schedule. After reporting aboard, several individuals voluntarily extended their required two weeks of annual training to remain on board for the remainder of the deployment. Others have been with Frederick since the ship first departed Pearl Harbor in June, and they'll remain aboard for the entire cruise.

Operations Specialist 1st Class Daniel Weber is the leading petty officer for Combat Information Center. During several amphibious assault planning exercises, he was responsible for updating the navigation charts, ensuring all amphibious boat lanes were properly laid out, and carefully reviewing each evolution so it would be conducted in a safe and professional manner. In addition to the extensive planning, he also made sure new seamen were carefully trained in every facet of the operation and that all Combat Information Center operations ran smoothly.

Participating in his second training exercise in as many years, Weber commented, "I know that when my country needs me, I'll be ready to go to sea. I like being part of something big and important, I love going to sea."

The selected reservists assigned to supply department made significant contributions to the overall morale of the ship's crew. The food service division has been blessed with the cooking talents of Mess Management Specialist 2nd Class Macvivan Tuck of Bessemer, Ala. In her position as watch captain, she supervises the food service attendants making sure food is properly prepared, equipment is sanitized, the food service line is clean and that the servers provide superior customer service to the crew.

Similarly, Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class David Burke of Queensbury, N.Y. helped with laundry and keeping the soda machines stocked — no easy task when 260 Marines live on board. He also had the opportunity to qualify as petty officer of the watch and to stand watches during his duty day. Repair division also had selected reservists assisting in a large number of daily tasks while they received valuable training in areas such as standing watch, damage control training as well as pipe welding. In addition, they also helped repair a wide variety of items that would have otherwise been delayed due to the large number of jobs requiring specialized skills.

Even though the time selected reservists spend on board varies, their presence for any length of time contributes immeasurably to the overall success of the command. Yeoman 1st Class Jamie Brewer of Sebring, Fla., Frederick's selected reserve coordinator stated, "they have not been doing this everyday like the primary crew has. This allows them to bring fresh ideas on board and contribute to the success of our team."

Spouses reenlist spouses aboard USS Paul Hamilton

By JO2 Jana Saastad

PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With 15,000 Sailors stationed in Hawaii, re-enlistments are a familiar site aboard ships, underneath "Old Glory" and on the hallowed waters above the USS Arizona. The deed itself usually produces no more than a casual "congratulations" from colleagues and on-lookers, and then it's business as usual for all involved.

Conversely, when a husband and wife are reenlisted together by their respective commanding officers — who also happen to be matrimonially tied — this otherwise common occasion becomes a unique event and a family affair.

"This is the second time we've enlisted together," said Senior Chief Quartermaster (SW) Martha Kastler. She reenlisted recently with her husband, Chief Signalman Kirk Kastler, leading chief petty officer aboard USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60).

"This gives us one less date to remember," she joked.

Martha Kastler was reenlisted by Cmdr. Margaret Hiser, commanding officer of staff enlisted personnel and flag secretary for Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT).

Kirk Kastler was reenlisted by Cmdr. Kenyon Hiser, commanding officer of Paul Hamilton.

Lake Erie Sailors earn 'the hat'

FCC(SW) Shannon McMillian, RMC(SW) Robbie Haslett, GSEC(SW) Bradley Dodrill and FCC(SW) Robert Delong receive their covers, identifying them as new Chief Petty Officers, from their sponsors during USS Lake Erie's (CG 70) pinning ceremony. Lake Erie is presently underway on a western Pacific deployment



USS Lake Erie photo

Fifth Fleet commander visits Chosin in Gulf

By Ens. J.C. Dudley

USS CHOSIN

The crew of USS Chosin (CG 65) reached an important milestone recently by arriving on station in the Arabian Gulf. To mark the occasion, Chosin was visited by Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet, Vice Adm. Charles Moore.

Admiral Moore took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the crew of the "War Dragon" and outline the mission the Pearl Harbor-based cruiser and the rest of the USS Constellation (CV 64) battle group faces in the Arabian Gulf.

Moore expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that goes into preparing for

an Arabian Gulf deployment. "I want to say right off the bat how impressed I have been with the preparations for deployment by the

Constellation battle group and in particular this ship," said Moore. "The payoff is we get a first class cruiser here for the next several months to continue our very important mission."

Arabian Gulf deployments have been a fact of life for every fleet Sailor for some time now, but preparations tend to focus on the mission and not so much the purpose for that mission. Sailors may deploy to a certain part of the world and, other than their personal opinions, never really know the reasons for the missions they perform. Moore took the time to bring

the reasons for Chosin's presence in the Gulf to the "deck-plate" level and put things in perspective for all hands.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Loren Valadez of Ewa Beach, "I thought he was very frank and very appreciative of our abilities. He gave us a thorough reasoning of why we are here in the Gulf and of why we have to maintain a strong military presence in the region. Vice Admiral Moore was very candid and it was obvious that he was a "Sailor" oriented leader. He took the time to talk to the Sailors while on board."

"Everything you do out here is absolutely critical," said Moore. "Your personal service on this ship is crucial to the security of the United

States, so it is worth your best effort. You're on the firing line right now and I ask you to do the best you can do because it is so important."

Moore's visit had a tangible impact on the crew and their perception of the part they play on board Chosin and their contribution to overall mission success. By taking the time to personally visit Chosin's Sailors and speak candidly on his expectations, he had a profound effect on the crew.

"He let you know how he personally felt about the mission here," said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Dave Drago from Albuquerque, N.M. "It made me feel confident that he would make the right decision no matter what happens."